American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons clinical practice guideline on management of acute compartment syndrome.

Guideline ID: 552 Published: 2025 Nov 18

American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS)

American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS). American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons clinical practice guideline on management of acute compartment syndrome. Rosemont (IL): American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS); 2025 Nov 18. 135 p.

View Original Guideline

Overview

Guideline Objective

To guide the clinician's ability to diagnosis and treat acute compartment syndrome (ACS) by providing evidence-based recommendations for key decisions that affect the management of patients with extremity trauma

Patient Population

Adult patients with traumatized extremities

Recommendations

Recommendation Statements

Major interventions covered in this guideline include:

- Role of serum biomarkers and intracompartmental pressure monitoring in diagnosis
- Physical examination and alternative methods of diagnosis
- Fasciotomy and management of associated fractures
- Wound and pain management

Note: Full recommendation statements have not been provided because this guideline does not meet EGT's systematic review of the evidence criteria. Refer to the original guideline for more information.

Evidence Rating Scheme

Refer to the original guideline documentation for more information.

Recommendation Rating Scheme

Refer to the original guideline documentation for more information.

Related Content

Supporting Documents

- Peer Review and Public Commentary Report.
- AAOS Clinical Practice Guideline Methodology.

Implementation Tools

- Trauma Toolkit.
- OrthoGuidelines App.

Patient Education

- Compartment Syndrome.

Note: This patient information is intended to help patients better understand their health and their diagnosed disorders. Patients and their representatives should still consult with a licensed health care professional for evaluation of treatment options as well as answers to their personal medical questions.

Disclaimer

If you desire to use content from the original clinical practice guideline cited herein, you must contact the guideline developer directly to obtain permission rights.

ECRI's Guideline Profiles are designed to provide information and assist decision-making. Variations in practice will inevitably, and appropriately, occur when clinicians take into account the needs and preferences of individual patients, available resources, and limitations unique to an institution or type of practice. Every healthcare professional using these Guideline Profiles is responsible for evaluating the appropriateness of applying them in a clinical setting.

Copyright © 2026 ECRI